

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A soil aerator, comprising:
 - 2 a frame assembly having a front end and a rear end;
 - 3 an aeration device coupled to the frame assembly;
 - 4 a front axle member to support the frame assembly, the front axel member located forward of the aeration device;
 - 5 a rear axle member to support the frame assembly; the rear Axel member located aft of the aeration device;
 - 6 a weight transfer system coupled to the frame assembly, the weight transfer system being operable to apply a moment to the aeration device to transfer a portion of the aeration device's weight to the front axle member or the rear axle member.
- 1 2. The soil aerator of claim 1, wherein the frame assembly is hinged and the aeration device is urged about the hinge axis by the weight transfer system.
- 1 3. The soil aerator of claim 1, wherein the at least one front axel member is coupled to a roller.
- 1 4. The soil aerator of claim 3, further comprising a second rear axle member and wherein each rear axle member is coupled to a wheel.
- 1 5. The soil aerator of claim 1, wherein the weight transfer system includes a first spring member coupled to the frame assembly the aeration device.
- 1 6. The soil aerator of claim 5, wherein the weight transfer system further includes a second spring member coupled to the rear Axel member and the aeration device.
- 1 7. The soil aeration of claim 1, wherein the weight transfer system is adapted to transfer a variable fraction of the weight of the aeration device to at least one of the front axle member and the rear axle member such that a head weight of the aeration device can be varied.

1 8. The soil aerator of claim 1, comprising at least two rear axle members each coupled
2 to the frame by a separate suspension system.

1 9. The soil aerator of claim 1, wherein the weight transfer system includes at least two
2 spring members that apply opposite moments to the aeration device.

1 10. The soil aerator of claim 1, wherein the weight transfer system includes a constant
2 force spring.

1 11. The soil aerator of claim 1, wherein the soil aeration device includes a planetary gear
2 system to rotate and translate a plurality of tine shafts bearing aeration tines.

1 12. The soil aerator of claim 1, wherein the aeration tines include an arcuate soil
2 fracturing edge.

1 13. A soil aerator, comprising:
2 a frame member having a front end and rear end;
3 means for aerating soil coupled to the frame assembly;
4 front support means to support the frame assembly as it travels across a ground
5 surface, the front frame support means located forward of the aerating means;
6 rear support means to support the frame assembly as it travels across the ground
7 surface, the rear support means located aft of the aerating means;
8 weight transfer means coupled to the frame assembly to apply a moment to transfer a
9 portion of the aerating means' weight to the front support means or the rear support means.

1 14. The soil aerator of claim 13, wherein the frame assembly is hinged and the aerating
2 means is urged about the hinge axis by the weight transfer means.

1 15. The soil aerator of claim 13, wherein the at least one front support means includes a
2 roller.

- 1 16. The soil aerator of claim 15, wherein the rear support means comprises at least two
2 rear axle members and wherein the rear axle members are coupled to separate wheels.
- 3 17. The soil aerator of claim 13, wherein the weight transfer means includes a first spring
4 member coupled to the frame assembly and the aerating means.
- 5 18. The soil aerator of claim 17, wherein the weight transfer means further includes a
6 second spring member coupled to the rear support means and the aerating means.
- 1 19. The soil aerator of claim 13, wherein the weight transfer means is adapted to transfer
2 a variable fraction of the weight of the aerating means to the front support means or the rear
3 support means such that a head weight of the aerating means can be varied.
- 1 20. The soil aerator of claim 13, comprising at least two rear axle members each coupled
2 to the frame member by a separate suspension system.
- 1 21. The soil aerator of claim 13, wherein the weight transfer means includes at least two
2 spring members that apply opposite moments to the aerating means.
- 1 22. The soil aerator of claim 13, wherein the weight transfer means is adapted to transfer
2 a variable fraction of the weight of the aerating means to the front support means or the rear
3 support means, such that a head weight of the aeration device can be varied.
- 1 23. The soil aerator of claim 13, wherein the aerating means includes a planetary gear
2 system to rotate and translate a plurality of tine shafts bearing aeration tines.
- 1 24. The soil aerator of claim 23, wherein each aeration tine includes an arcuate soil
2 fracturing edge.